

503.1
1. (Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

a2
4. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate body defines a longitudinal axis and a perimeter extending around the longitudinal axis and the stiffening member comprises an elongate member extending only partially around the perimeter.

a3
24. (Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion;

an anchoring member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and secured to the steering wire;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a distal end secured to the anchoring member; and

an anti-tear device associated with the stiffening member.

Please add claims 43-52 as follows:

43. An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device is secured to the stiffening member.

44. An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member.

45. An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member with a slot.

ad 46. An apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein a portion of the steering wire is positioned within the slot.

47. An apparatus, comprising:
an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;
a steering wire having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;
a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body; and
an anti-tear device associated with the stiffening member.

48. An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device is secured to the stiffening member.

49. An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the stiffening member defines a proximal end and the anti-tear device is secured to the proximal end of the stiffening member.

ad 50. An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member.

51. An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member with a slot.

52. An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein a portion of the steering wire is positioned within the slot.